



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



December 2000

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons Killed	Number of Persons Injured	Estimated Damage Property	Estimated Damage Crops	Character of Storm
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ILLINOIS, South

ILZ083>086>087-091

White - Saline - Gallatin - Hardin

02

1600CST
2200CST

0

0

Snow

Snow began falling during the late afternoon hours. Accumulations ranged from 1 to 2 inches before the snow ended late in the evening. Because temperatures were just above freezing at the start, most of the accumulation was on grassy areas. As temperatures fell below freezing late in the evening, ice formed on the wet roads, causing a number of vehicle mishaps.

ILZ075>078-080>094

Jefferson - Wayne - Edwards - Wabash - Perry - Franklin - Hamilton - White - Jackson - Williamson - Saline - Gallatin - Union - Johnson - Pope - Hardin - Alexander - Pulaski - Massac

12

0001CST
2359CST

0

0

Extreme Cold

An invasion of arctic air occurred on December 12. The arctic air became permanently entrenched over the region for the remainder of the month, resulting in the coldest December on record at Paducah, KY. The average monthly temperature of 25.9 degrees was 11.4 below normal. On the coldest day of the month, the 17th, the high was 17 and the low was 6. Unusually high energy prices, combined with the record cold, caused homeless shelters to fill to capacity. The usual problems associated with frigid temperatures, such as frozen pipes and water main breaks, were common during the latter half of the month. At Brookport, across the river from Paducah, the pipe extending down from the water tower froze, causing it to burst. As a result, Brookport temporarily had no water supply until emergency wells were dug. Heavy ice on the Mississippi River prompted the Coast Guard to restrict barge traffic from Cairo, IL northward.

ILZ075>078-080>094

Jefferson - Wayne - Edwards - Wabash - Perry - Franklin - Hamilton - White - Jackson - Williamson - Saline - Gallatin - Union - Johnson - Pope - Hardin - Alexander - Pulaski - Massac

13

0800CST
1900CST

0

0

Winter Storm

A major winter storm produced 4 to 7 inches of snow across southern Illinois, followed by 1/4 to 1/2 inch of ice. The snow began during the early morning hours, falling at rates near one inch per hour. By midday, the snow changed to freezing rain after a brief period of sleet. Light to occasionally moderate freezing rain fell during the afternoon and early evening hours. The heavy precipitation was caused by a strong upper level disturbance that tracked east-northeast from the southern Rockies, across the southern Plains, and then over the lower Mississippi Valley. A strong southerly flow of milder air just above ground level was unable to scour out very cold air right at the surface, which produced an extended period of snow and ice. The liquid equivalent of all the frozen and freezing precipitation was between three quarters of an inch and one inch. Numerous accidents occurred, most of which were minor. The most significant accident was at the junction of Interstates 57 and 64 near Mount Vernon, where a jack-knifed semi-trailer held up traffic for more than an hour. Schools were closed for up to a week following the storm, especially in rural counties with limited snow removal resources. Ice on trees and power lines contributed to scattered power outages. Stores quickly sold out of winter goods, such as ice melter and snow shovels.

ILZ075>078-080>089

Jefferson - Wayne - Edwards - Wabash - Perry - Franklin - Hamilton - White - Jackson - Williamson - Saline - Gallatin - Union - Johnson

15

1000CST
1500CST

0

0

Freezing Rain

Freezing rain spread across most of southern Illinois during the late morning hours. Most of the icing was north and west of the counties bordering the Ohio River. The thin layer of ice, less than a quarter inch thick, caused some hazardous travel conditions. By late afternoon, the precipitation became too patchy and light to be a significant hazard.

ILZ077>078-083-087

Edwards - Wabash - White - Gallatin

16

1800CST
2300CST

0

0

Snow



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ILLINOIS, South

A mix of very light rain and snow during the afternoon changed to a steady snow early in the evening. The snow accumulated anywhere from 1 to 3 inches across southern Illinois, with 2-inch plus amounts confined to counties bordering the Wabash River. The snow ended by midnight. Due to frigid temperatures which hampered snow removal, the accumulations were enough to keep some schools closed, especially in rural counties with poor snow removal abilities. The snow was caused by a strong upper level disturbance that tracked southeast to the Missouri Bootheel, then east along the Tennessee/Kentucky border.

ILZ087

Gallatin

21 0900CST
22 1800CST

0 0

Flood

The Ohio River crested about 6 inches above the 33-foot flood stage at Shawneetown. This resulted in some flooding of low-lying agricultural bottomland.

INDIANA, Southwest

INZ085>088

Posey - Vanderburgh - Warrick - Spencer

02 1600CST
2200CST

0 0

Snow

Snow began falling during the late afternoon hours. Accumulations ranged from 1 to 2 inches before the snow ended late in the evening. Because temperatures were just above freezing at the start, most of the accumulation was on grassy areas. As temperatures fell below freezing late in the evening, ice formed on the wet roads, causing a number of minor vehicle mishaps.

INZ081>082-085>088

Gibson - Pike - Posey - Vanderburgh - Warrick - Spencer

11 1800CST
2300CST

0 0

Wind

A strong cold front passed through southwest Indiana. Strong gusty northwest winds in the wake of the front caused some minor damage to trees. A few trees were down in each county. At the Evansville Airport, the peak wind gust was clocked at 46 MPH.

INZ081>082-085>088

Gibson - Pike - Posey - Vanderburgh - Warrick - Spencer

12 0001CST
31 2359CST

0 0

Extreme Cold

An invasion of arctic air occurred on December 12. The arctic air became permanently entrenched over the region for the remainder of the month, resulting in the second coldest December on record at Evansville. The average monthly temperature of 23.6 degrees was 11.6 below normal. On the coldest day of the month, the 22nd, the high was 15 and the low was 2. Unusually high energy prices, combined with the record cold, caused homeless shelters to fill to capacity. The usual problems associated with frigid temperatures, such as frozen pipes and water main breaks, were common during the latter half of the month.

INZ081>082-085>088

Gibson - Pike - Posey - Vanderburgh - Warrick - Spencer

13 1000CST
1900CST

0 0

Winter Storm

A major winter storm produced 3 to 4 inches of snow across southwest Indiana, followed by 1/4 to 1/2 inch of ice. The snow began during the mid to late-morning hours, falling at rates near one inch per hour. During the midday hours, the snow changed to freezing rain after a brief period of sleet. Light to occasionally moderate freezing rain fell during the afternoon and early evening hours. The heavy precipitation was caused by a strong upper level disturbance that tracked east-northeast from the southern Rockies, across the southern Plains, and then over the lower Mississippi Valley. A strong southerly flow of milder air just above ground level was unable to scour out very cold air right at the surface, which produced an extended period of snow and ice. The liquid equivalent of all the frozen and freezing precipitation was between three quarters of an inch and one inch. Numerous accidents occurred, most of which were minor. In Vanderburgh County, including Evansville, police reported more than 50 accidents. Most schools and some businesses were closed by the storm.



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December 2000

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INDIANA, Southwest

INZ081>082-085>088 Gibson - Pike - Posey - Vanderburgh - Warrick - Spencer

16 1800CST 0 0 Snow
2300CST

A mix of very light rain and snow during the afternoon changed to a steady snow early in the evening. The snow accumulated anywhere from 2 to 3 inches across southwest Indiana. The snow ended around midnight. The snow was caused by a strong upper level disturbance that tracked southeast to the Missouri Bootheel, then east along the Tennessee/Kentucky border.

KENTUCKY, Southwest

KYZ010-014>022 Crittenden - Union - Webster - Hopkins - Christian - Henderson - Daviess - Mclean - Muhlenberg - Todd

02 1600CST 0 0 Snow
2200CST

Snow began falling during the late afternoon hours. Accumulations ranged from 1 to 2 inches before the snow ended late in the evening. Because temperatures were just above freezing at the start, most of the accumulation was on grassy areas. As temperatures fell below freezing late in the evening, ice formed on the wet roads, causing a number of vehicle mishaps.

KYZ001>022 Fulton - Hickman - Carlisle - Ballard - Mccracken - Graves - Livingston - Marshall - Calloway - Crittenden - Lyon - Trigg - Caldwell - Union - Webster - Hopkins - Christian - Henderson - Daviess - Mclean - Muhlenberg - Todd

11 1800CST 0 0 Wind
2300CST

A strong cold front passed across western Kentucky. West to northwest winds gusted to 45 MPH behind the front. At Paducah, the peak wind gust was 44 MPH, and at Evansville, Indiana, it was 46 MPH. Many counties reported a few trees or limbs were blown down. Some signs were damaged in Henderson. Isolated brief power outages were reported in Webster and Henderson Counties.

KYZ001>022 Fulton - Hickman - Carlisle - Ballard - Mccracken - Graves - Livingston - Marshall - Calloway - Crittenden - Lyon - Trigg - Caldwell - Union - Webster - Hopkins - Christian - Henderson - Daviess - Mclean - Muhlenberg - Todd

12 0001CST 0 0 Extreme Cold
31 2359CST

An invasion of arctic air occurred on December 12. The arctic air became permanently entrenched over the region for the remainder of the month, resulting in the coldest December on record at Paducah. The average monthly temperature of 25.9 degrees was 11.4 below normal. On the coldest day of the month, the 17th, the high was 17 and the low was 6. Unusually high energy prices, combined with the record cold, caused homeless shelters to fill to capacity. The usual problems associated with frigid temperatures, such as frozen pipes and water main breaks, were common during the latter half of the month. Auto clubs reported a large increase in service calls, mainly for frozen door locks and dead batteries.

KYZ001>011-013>016-018>020 Fulton - Hickman - Carlisle - Ballard - Mccracken - Graves - Livingston - Marshall - Calloway - Crittenden - Lyon - Caldwell - Union - Webster - Hopkins - Henderson - Daviess - Mclean

13 0800CST 0 0 Winter Storm
1900CST

A major winter storm produced significant ice accumulations across most of western Kentucky, generally around 1/2 inch thick. The ice was preceded by up to 3 inches of snow. Snow accumulations before the changeover to ice ranged from just a dusting in the Tennessee border counties up to 3 inches along the Ohio River. Owensboro reported only an inch of snow, while Henderson and Paducah received 3 inches. The snow changed to freezing rain after a brief period of sleet. Light to occasionally moderate freezing rain fell during the afternoon and early evening hours. In the Hopkinsville area, temperatures rose above freezing long enough to prevent any significant icing problems there. The heavy precipitation was caused by a strong upper level disturbance that tracked east-northeast from the southern Rockies, across the southern Plains, and then over the lower Mississippi Valley. A strong southerly flow of milder air just above ground level was unable to scour out very cold air right at the surface, which produced an extended period of snow and ice. The liquid equivalent of all the frozen and freezing precipitation was between one half and three quarters of an inch. Numerous accidents occurred, most of which were minor. One of the most significant wrecks occurred on the U.S. Highway 41 bridge over the Ohio River, where a car rolled onto its side. Schools were closed for up to a week following the storm.



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KENTUCKY, Southwest

especially in rural counties with limited snow removal resources. Ice on trees and power lines contributed to scattered power outages, especially from the Morganfield area of Union County southwest to the Mayfield and Paducah areas. Stores quickly sold out of winter goods, such as ice melter and snow shovels.

KYZ010>022

Crittenden - Lyon - Trigg - Caldwell - Union - Webster - Hopkins - Christian - Henderson - Daviess - Mclean - Muhlenberg - Todd

16 1800CST 2300CST 0 0 Snow

A mix of very light rain and snow during the afternoon changed to a steady snow early in the evening. The snow accumulated anywhere from 1 to 3 inches across western Kentucky. The 2 to 3 inch accumulations were east of Kentucky Lake, especially from the Madisonville area north to Owensboro and Henderson. The snow ended around midnight. Frigid temperatures in the wake of the snow made salt much less effective. There were a number of minor accidents and a sharp increase in slip-and-fall injuries. The snow was caused by a strong upper level disturbance that tracked southeast to the Missouri Bootheel, then east along the Tennessee/Kentucky border.

KYZ001>022

Fulton - Hickman - Carlisle - Ballard - Mccracken - Graves - Livingston - Marshall - Calloway - Crittenden - Lyon - Trigg - Caldwell - Union - Webster - Hopkins - Christian - Henderson - Daviess - Mclean - Muhlenberg - Todd

26 1500CST 2000CST 0 0 Snow

Minor snow accumulations, generally an inch or so, affected the Owensboro and Henderson areas. To the south, the precipitation was more in the form of sleet and freezing rain. In the Owensboro area, about 50 vehicles slid off the road or were in accidents. The most significant was a semi trailer that jackknifed on U.S. 431 near the community of Island.

MISSOURI, Southeast

MOZ076-086>087-100-107>112-114

Perry - Bollinger - Cape Girardeau - Wayne - Carter - Ripley - Butler - Stoddard - Scott - Mississippi - New Madrid

12 0001CST 2359CST 0 0 Extreme Cold

An invasion of arctic air occurred on December 12. The arctic air became permanently entrenched over the region for the remainder of the month, resulting in the coldest December on record at Paducah, KY. The average monthly temperature of 25.9 degrees was 11.4 below normal. On the coldest day of the month, the 17th, the high was 17 and the low was 6. Unusually high energy prices, combined with the record cold, caused homeless shelters to fill to capacity. The usual problems associated with frigid temperatures, such as frozen pipes and water main breaks, were common during the latter half of the month. A combination of heavy ice and low water conditions on the Mississippi River prompted the Coast Guard to restrict barge traffic north of Cairo, IL. Low water led to the grounding of 15 loaded coal barges about 10 miles north of Cape Girardeau.

MOZ076-086>087-100-107>112-114

Perry - Bollinger - Cape Girardeau - Wayne - Carter - Ripley - Butler - Stoddard - Scott - Mississippi - New Madrid

13 0700CST 1900CST 0 0 Winter Storm

A major winter storm produced 2 to 6 inches of snow across southeast Missouri, followed by 1/4 to 1/2 inch of ice. The snow began shortly before sunrise, falling at rates near one inch per hour. Snow accumulations before the changeover to ice ranged from just an inch or two at New Madrid up to 6 inches at Perryville. By midday, the snow changed to freezing rain after a brief period of sleet. Light to occasionally moderate freezing rain fell during the afternoon and early evening hours. The heavy precipitation was caused by a strong upper level disturbance that tracked east-northeast from the southern Rockies, across the southern Plains, and then over the lower Mississippi Valley. A strong southerly flow of milder air just above ground level was unable to scour out very cold air right at the surface, which produced an extended period of snow and ice. The liquid equivalent of all the frozen and freezing precipitation was between three quarters of an inch and one inch. Numerous accidents occurred, most of which were minor. Most schools were closed by the storm. Ice on trees and power lines contributed to scattered power outages, mainly east of the Poplar Bluff area.



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Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



December 2000

Location	Date	Time	Path	Path	Number of		Estimated		Character of Storm
		Local/ Standard	Length (Miles)	Width (Yards)	Killed	Injured	Property Damage	Crops	

MISSOURI, Southeast

MOZ076-086>087-100-
107>109 Perry - Bollinger - Cape Girardeau - Wayne - Carter - Ripley - Butler

15 0900CST 0 0 Freezing Rain
1300CST

Freezing rain spread across most of southeast Missouri during the mid-morning hours. Most of the icing was north and west of a line from Poplar Bluff to Cape Girardeau. The thin layer of ice, less than a quarter inch thick, caused some hazardous travel conditions. The precipitation ended by mid afternoon.

MOZ076-086>087-100-
107>112-114 Perry - Bollinger - Cape Girardeau - Wayne - Carter - Ripley - Butler - Stoddard - Scott - Mississippi - New Madrid

26 1500CST 0 0 Freezing Rain
2200CST

Minor accumulations of snow and sleet caused major travel problems. The precipitation, which began falling during the morning, accumulated between 1 and 2 inches by evening. Interstate 55 and U.S. 60 were completely covered with snow and ice during the evening. Treacherous roads caused numerous accidents on Highway 25 and U.S. Highway 60. There were several injuries in wrecks that occurred around Dexter.